GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2570
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Discontinuation of Food Subsidy
Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have stopped providing food subsidy to the poor families in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and
(c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) & (b): No reports have been received from State Governments regarding removal of poor families from the ambit of subsidised food grains. It is, however, stated that against 6.5 crore households covered under Below Poverty Line (BPL) category (including Antyodaya Anna Yojana) under the erstwhile Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS), the coverage under National Food Security Act (NFSA) is up to 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population. Thus, under NFSA about 81.35 crore persons in the country are covered. The large coverage under NFSA ensures coverage of all vulnerable and needy sections of the society.
(c): For better targeting of food subsidy, removing bogus ration cards, ensuring timely availability of food grains, check on leakage and diversion of foodgrains, introducing public accountability, etc., Government has taken various steps in implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in States/Union Territories (UTs). The TPDS (Control) Order, 2015 mandates the State/UTs to take action for smooth functioning of TPDS. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 also prescribes essential reforms in the TPDS and accordingly, government has taken up with States/UTs for implementing measures such as door-step delivery of foodgrains, correct identification of beneficiaries, monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shops operations. Further, with a view to modernising the system, the Government has initiated a plan scheme on end-to-end computerisation of TPDS operations.
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